Dear Parents and Friends,

This is the penultimate newsletter for the year with only three weeks to go before the term ends. As usual there will be lots happening, with concert practice, camps and other end of year celebrations. The teachers will be ensuring that their learning programs continue until the end of the year, so that the maximum can be achieved from the year. Teachers will also ensure that any events they are having are communicated so parents are informed prior to any special events or days.

**Reports**

Teachers are currently finalising reports. These are planned to go out in the last week, along with your child’s class placement for 2016.

**Staffing and Classes 2016**

The last of the appointments for 2016 are just being finalised and should be confirmed at the time of writing.

Once leadership positions have been panelled, the staffing and class configurations will be announced. If needed, I will send out an interim newsletter with the final details.

**White Ribbon Day**

Penola Primary School is an official White ribbon School and we will be holding a White Ribbon Day on Wednesday November 25th, which is the National White Ribbon Day. This event is not a fundraiser, but a day of awareness to educate our students about the importance of respectful relationships, in particular preventing violence against women. We are encouraging students to wear white on the day as a show their support for the campaign. See the next page for more information about the White Ribbon Program.

**Transition**

Kindergarten to school transition continued yesterday, with the new group of Foundation students quickly making themselves comfortable in the school surrounds. Next week, Year 7 students who are going to Penola HS will have their two transition days. These will be on Thursday and Friday. Students will be expected to start and finish the day at the High School. Bus drivers have been made aware of who will be on transition. Students not on transition will be expected to attend school here as per usual.

**Parent Opinion Survey**

Last week the Annual Parent Opinion Survey was distributed via email. This survey enables us to look at what is valued at the school, as well as areas we can improve. The survey shouldn’t take any more than 5-10 minutes. You can access the survey at [https://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/az494u7L](https://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/az494u7L). The survey is available until 27/11/2015 11:59:00 PM, Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST). We appreciate you taking the time to give us your feedback. If you did not get a link for this, or would like a hard copy, please ask Paul or enquire at the Front Office.

**Remembrance Day**

Last week, we held a respectful Remembrance Day ceremony by the flagpole. Mrs Heyn organised a student from each class to read out a reflection on Remembrance Day which was a touching tribute. The ceremony concluded with Skye McLachlan singing Waltzing Matilda.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Term 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th</td>
<td>Tuesday 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Ribbon Day</td>
<td>School Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 6 Class BBQ</td>
<td>8th School Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th</td>
<td>6th and Yr 7 excursions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 transition PHS</td>
<td>9th Yr 6 and Yr 7 excursions</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th-27th Wed-Fri</td>
<td>10th Disco and JP games Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly—Yr 6 O’Connell</td>
<td>Friday 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
<td>Assembly 1:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon—Frid 30-4th</td>
<td>Friday 11th</td>
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</tbody>
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**Respect and Responsibility**

Governing Council Chairperson: Melissa Hunter
Principal: Paul Harmer
E-mail: paul.harmer381@schools.sa.edu.au
Website: [http://www.penolaps.sa.edu.au](http://www.penolaps.sa.edu.au)
Remembrance Day is an important part of our calendar and it was pleasing to see all students be a part of it.

Blue Lake Fun Run
We have another great turn out for Blue Lake Fun Run with 38 people nominating for the team. Next Monday will be the final practice before the big run on Sunday 29th November. I wish all the runners the best of luck and enjoy the experience.

SRC
The end of year disco will be on again this year on the last Thursday of the term (10th December). It will begin at 7:00pm and finish at 9:30pm. The theme this year will be Celebrities and Sports Stars. We will not be doing photo orders this year. However, there will be an area set up so parents can take photos of their own children within the first 30 minutes.
The JP games day will be held on the same day in the afternoon. They will be having a shared lunch for $5 per student on the day.

Library News.
The students (mostly the boys, I would guess) have a HUGE thank you for the Parent Club.
The transport section of our library is very popular, and many of the books have been getting a bit tatty. The library staff approached the Parent Club about giving some money to buy some new books for this section.
Our wonderful Parent Club of course said yes, and allocated us $600.
So the past few weeks have been spent choosing books, waiting (and waiting) for them to arrive, and then having fantastic volunteer mums cover them.

So now we have 24 new books on: monster trucks, tractors, motor bikes, fast cars, cool cars, silly cars, rescue machines...

Look out for them coming home in school bags soon.
THANK YOU PARENT CLUB!

End-of-year Library Book and Reader Returns
It’s that time of year, when all books need to be returned to the library.
Please search under beds and behind shelves for any readers/books that may be hiding there.
Every year hundreds of dollars worth of books go missing. We would really appreciate your help with locating and returning as many books as possible.

Thank You,
Janet Brodie

Canteen News
The warmer weather has meant plenty of ice blocks have been sold over the past few days. However, we will making sure we still have stock on hand until at least the last week. Some lunch items will taken off the menu as stocks run out. Watch out for notices in the weekly email and newsletter for out of stock items.

Current Special
Hot dog in a roll with a frozen AJ—$4.00
This can be ordered on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Rosters
Friday 27th November: Lou Bailey
Friday December 4th November: Megan McGuinness

Munchies
Tuesday 24th November
Anna Copping
Amanda Gerritsen
Ilana Minge

Tuesday 1st December
Trish Brand
Mardi Currie
White Ribbon

White Ribbon aims to educate communities about Domestic Violence, Respectful Relationships, and the importance of supporting our kids to become respectful adults. The Breaking The Silence Program supports schools to build on initiatives, policies and curriculum to promote the school as a respectful centre for education, a safe workplace, and as a vehicle for community culture change.

You may have seen ads on TV and social media about White Ribbon, or seen the local Break the Silence ‘Loudest Shout’ initiative in the local news. White Ribbon’s values are particularly important and valid when discussing domestic violence across our country and the effect that it is having on people’s lives at an increasing rate. While domestic violence is not an easy topic to discuss with younger people, it is critical that our kids grow up with the strong belief that it is definitely not ok, and that being respectful of each other is important in all situations. It is also an unfortunate reality that the vast majority of domestic violence is perpetrated by males, so we have a responsibility to educate our male students about how to treat people fairly. We also need to arm our students with the skills to take action against violence and bullying, so they do not stand by and let it happen – bad things happen when good people let them happen. Our children will grow up to become our adults, and we want the next generation to do the right thing!

The idea of respectful relationships, acting against unfair behaviour, and treating people fairly is something that students in primary schools are aware of and, when given opportunities, can demonstrate a high level of care and compassion. During a discussion about gender equality with staff recently, we discussed some common comments we hear such as, “you throw like a girl,” and, “you run like a girl,” as well as “your hair cut is like a boy”. We talked about seeing unequal levels of respect given to netballers and footballers, and how fights, both physical and on social media, can get out of hand when people ignore things instead of standing up for the right behaviour. We see stories about violence in the news as if it is normal.

This program allows our student leaders to talk about their role models at home and school, as well as being role models for siblings and younger students. We hope that our students are becoming aware of the power they have to control their own actions, as well as their potential to make the world around them a more safe or unsafe place to be.

Working with our children to develop their understanding of respectful relationships and their responsibility to behave respectfully and positively towards each other needs to be a critically important aspect of our culture – at school, at home and in the community.

Some quick facts about domestic violence and the issues with respect and equality in our country:
• 69 women have been killed this year in Australia, as a result of domestic violence.
• 87% of domestic violence victims are women
• Partner-perpetrated violence is the leading contributor of death, disability and ill-health in women aged 15-44
• 1 in 3 women have experienced domestic violence (in one of many forms) from someone known to them
• 1 in 4 children are exposed to domestic violence, which is a form of child abuse
• 1 in 5 women experience harassment at work
• Rates of domestic violence are quickly increasing
• There is no real difference in the amount of domestic violence within different sectors of the community, regardless of wealth, culture, religion or physical location
• Children that witness domestic violence are much more likely to grow up and repeat these behaviours

Do we want our girls and boys to grow up living in a community with these statistics?? Or do we work together to change this?? Building greater equality and respect between women and men can reduce attitudes that support violence

Wednesday 25th November
White Ribbon Day
173,540 people have got your back
The Year 3 class went on camp to Cockatoo Downs Farm Stay near Keith from 4th-6th November. At the camp we did lots of different activities. We arrived on Wednesday and it was a beautiful day. We started by exploring the camp site and completed some activities. The activities we did were raft building, canoeing, farm tour (where we fed the animals), orienteering, treasure hunt and archery.
On Thursday morning when we woke up, the grass areas had become lake. Overnight 55mm of had fallen! Even though it was a bit wet, we had a great time.
We left on Friday and returned to school. We had an awesome time together.
Swimming is a skill for life!
SA Water VACSWIM - it’s the holiday fun thing to do!

Dates: 4th to 8th January 2016

Programs Available
Penola - Swim & Survive Levels 1-7 / Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Awards
Nangwarry - Swim & Survive Levels 1-7

Enrolment Fees:
$30 for Children 5 to 13 years (plus $5 surcharge for onsite enrolments)
For teenagers participating in higher awards contact RLSS-SA (08) 8210 4500

Equipment & Location Fee:
$1.50 (applicable to each child enrolled in the program).

Options for enrolment & payment:
Enrol online: www.royallifesavingsa.com.au/vacswim/
(online enrolments close 18th December 2015)
Download an enrolment form and post with payment details to PO Box 2075, Hilton 5033 (postal enrolments close 11th December 2015)

Should you have any queries regarding the delivery of the 2016 VACSWIM program by Royal Life Saving Society SA please email swim@royallifesavingsa.com.au or call the friendly customer service staff on (08) 8210 4500